



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release March 25, 1987

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO PURSUE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY

Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle today announced that his agency will immediately convene a volunteer group to discuss a National Recreational Fisheries Policy.

"I have viewed with great interest the recent development of national recreational fisheries and fishing policies by Canada and New Zealand, and and how these efforts have met with broad acclaim from their conservation communities as well as ours," Dunkle said.

Dunkle said he believes the time is now right for the U.S. to develop a similar policy and emphasized that it would be developed cooperatively by a voluntary consortium of Federal and State agencies, along with constituency groups, tribal and industry representatives. Dunkle volunteered his agency to provide leadership in the development effort.

Dunkle stated that the goal of the new initiative would be a unified national recreational fisheries policy with a set of clearly-defined objectives and strategies that can be implemented through a framework of respective governmental and public sector responsibilities. One of the major objectives of the policy would be the advancement of the concept of joint stewardship of the Nation's recreational fisheries.

Representatives from major fishery resources conservation organizations, Federal, State, and tribal agencies, and private industry have been invited to a meeting in April 1987, at the Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.